

Amendments to the Specification

Please amend paragraph [0007] through [0011] and [0015] as indicated below.

[0007] Fig. 2 is a diagrammatic side view of the first embodiment of the strap according to Fig. 1, with only a few of the fibers in the long second portion of the strap shown for clarity.

[0008] Fig. 3A is a diagrammatic cross-section of the strap according to the first embodiment along section line A-A of Fig. 2.

[0009] Fig. 3B is a diagrammatic cross-sectional view of the strap according to the first embodiment along section line B-B of Fig. 2.

[0010] Fig. 4 is a side view of the strap according to the first embodiment, with only a few of the fibers in the long second portion of the strap shown for clarity.

[0011] Fig. 5 is a diagrammatic side view of the strap according to a second embodiment, with only a few of the fibers in the long second portion of the strap shown for clarity.

[0015] As shown in Fig. 2 the tapered portion 12 preferably has a length s of between 3 and 20 mm. The length s of the tapered portion depends on the change in the cross-section of the fastening portion 8 to the second portion 10 or on their change in the width direction. The tapered portion 12 is preferably located as close as possible to the connection of the fastening portion 8 of the strap to the airbag 4, i.e. as close as possible to the seam 14. A strap 2 of this kind can have, for example in the fastening portion 8, a cross-sectional width of 20 mm, which when it reaches the second portion 10 tapers to a cross-sectional width of about 3 to about 4 mm. In addition, a ratio L/s of the entire length L of the strap to the length s of the tapered portion is between about ~~20 and about 1000~~ 20:1 and about 1000:1, preferably between about ~~30 and about 400~~ 30:1 and about 400:1. Because the transition region or tapered portion is relatively short in relation to the overall length of the strap, advantageously simple manufacture of the strap can be guaranteed. Operational safety is also increased, as the region of the tapered portion, which normally has a tendency to foul, is kept short.